

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01001 102231Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----102240Z 130722 /64

O R 102140Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 683
USCINCSO
PANCANAL, GOVERNOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1001

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN
SUBJECT: TALK WITH TORRIJOS ADVISER

REF: STATE 024459

1. SUMMARY. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM GENERAL TORRIJOS, HIS CLOSE
CONFIDANT RORY GONZALEZ INVITED ME TO LUNCH TODAY. HE ASSURED ME
THAT THE CHANGE IN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD ABSOLUTELY NO POLICY
IMPLICATIONS NOR DID IT REFLECT ANY CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON THE
PART OF THE GENERAL OR THE GOP. HE INDICATED TORRIJOS HOPEFUL
WE CAN MOVE AHEAD QUICKLY TOWARD TREATY AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. I HAD ASKED FOR MEETING WITH TORRIJOS TO FOLLOW UP SUGGESTIONS
IN REFTTEL. I REPEATED REQUEST LATE YESTERDAY AFTER BOMBSHELL OF
MINISTER BOYD'S RESIGNATION HAD BURST. THIS MORNING, RORY
GONZALEZ, PROBABLY TORRIJOS' CLOSEST FRIEND AND ADVISER,
CALLED TO SEE IF WE COULD HAVE LUNCH. AT MEETING HE TOLD ME
TORRIJOS WANTED VERY MUCH TO SEE ME BUT WAS QUOTE BURIED IN
APPOINTMENTS UNQUOTE AND WOULD BE UNABLE TO GET TOGETHER
BEFORE NEXT WEEK. HE HAD ASKED RORY TO MEET ME TO COVER ANY
IMMEDIATE URGENT BUSINESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 01001 102231Z

3. I TOLD GONZALEZ THAT WE WERE CURIOUS AS TO MEANING OF
MINISTER BOYD'S SUDDEN RESIGNATION AND WHAT IT MIGHT IMPLY FOR
OUR MUTUAL TREATY EFFORTS. HE SAID I COULD ASSURE SECRETARY AND
OTHER COLLEAGUES IN WASHINGTON THAT THIS MOVE REFLECTED ABSOLUTELY
NO CHANGE IN PANAMANIAN POLICY OR ATTITUDE. HE SAID IT WAS
BASICALLY A CLASH OF OUTLOOK REGARDING THE MODALITIES OF
NEGOTIATION: TORRIJOS FELT IT HAD TO BE A TOTALLY TEAM EFFORT;

BOYD FELT HE SHOULD BE THE CENTRAL FIGURE AND INVOLVED IN ALL DECISIONS AND ACTIONS. TORRIJOS' ATTITUDE HAD BEEN REFLECTED IN PRESS INTERVIEW TUESDAY NIGHT AND BOYD HAD RESIGNED IN PIQUE AT NOT BEING CONSULTED.

4. GONZALEZ SAID HE THOUGHT BOYD'S RESIGNATION WOULD MAKE PANAMANIAN TEAM MORE UNIFIED. HE DESCRIBED ALL KEY CURRENT MEMBERS AS COMPLETELY LOYAL TO TORRIJOS AND AWARE OF GENERAL'S ATTITUDES AND EXPECTATIONS. AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT: HE SAID HE EXPECTED THAT GONZALES-REVILLA, AS NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, WOULD PLAY LESS DIRECT ROLE IN TREATY TALKS THAN IN PAST, WITH ROMULO ESCOBAR BEING PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN FOR GOP DELEGATION AND EDWIN FABREGA AS QUOTE NUMBER TWO UNQUOTE. HE INDICATED THAT NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, AS INTIMATE OF TORRIJOS, WOULD ALWAYS BE READILY AVAILABLE TO TRY TO HELP RESOLVE ANY STALEMATES IN NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT NECESSITY OF GOING TO TORRIJOS. LATTER WOULD REMAIN AS COURT OF LAST RESORT ON KEY ISSUES.

5. RORY NOTED THAT SECURITY ARRANGEMENT IN POST-TREATY PERIOD WAS BIGGEST CURRENT PROBLEM FROM PANAMA'S VIEWPOINT. HE SAID IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR PANAMA TO GIVE U.S. RIGHT TO UNILATERAL INTERVENTION IN CASE OF FUTURE TROUBLE. I TOLD HIM I FELT IT WOULD BE EQUALLY DIFFICULT FOR US POLITICALLY TO WIN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR A TREATY UNLESS THERE WAS SOME FIRM ASSURANCE THAT WE COULD ACT IN CASE OF ANY SERIOUS THREAT TO THE CANAL AFTER TREATY EXPIRED. THIS WAS SOMETHING WE WOULD HAVE TO HAMMER OUT IN WAY THAT MET BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE TWO PARTIES. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PANAMA 01001 102231Z

RELIANCE ON A UNITED NATIONS GUARANTEE, AS MENTIONED BY TORRIJOS, WOULD NOT MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS.

6. REMAINDER OF TALK WAS GENERAL BUT FRIENDLY--TOUCHING ON THE CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF PANAMA, THE QUALITY OF THE LOCAL PRESS, FUTURE OF COPPER MINING, ETC. GONZALEZ TOLD ME THAT GENERAL WAS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH RECENT VISIT OF PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS TO WASHINGTON AND WITH TREATMENT RECEIVED FROM SECRETARY VANCE AND U. S. SENATORS.
JORDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA01001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770048-0809
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770254/aaaabvto.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f44f74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 24459
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3354323
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH TORRIJOS ADVISER
TAGS: PFOR, PN, US
To: STATE USCINCSO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f44f74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009